THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XLVI. Wednesday, June 2, 1852. No. 18.

AMPUTATION AT THE HIP-JOINT—OSTEO-SARCOMA.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In November, 1850, a boy by the name of Scribner, while riding upon a wagon, had the right leg caught between the spokes of one of the wheels, and carried around the axletree with such force as to lacerate the integuments and posterior part of the ligament of the knee-joint, leaving the lower extremity of the femur naked and protruding some four inches. Under the care of physicians of the vicinity, efforts were made for the preservation of the limb. As would have been expected, severe inflammation and constitutional irritation followed, and to these succeeded excessive and protracted suppuration. As the acute inflammation subsided, and after a long continuance of the suppuration, there came on a chronic enlargement of the limb above the knee, which continued, together with the suppuration, till February, 1851, when the powers of the constitution had become so far exhausted as to threaten the life of the patient. Additional counsel was now called, and the thigh was amputated near or just above its lower third. Although the operation put an end to the excessive suppuration, and the boy gradually recovered from the prostration, and nearly, if not quite, acquired his usual physical powers, there was a small portion of the stump, about the extremity of the divided femur, that never healed, but continued to discharge a sanious fluid, while the limb continued increasing in size, and the enlargement extending higher. Some time after the amputation, another fistulous opening appeared, an inch or two above the extremity of the stump, evidently extending to the bone, which had no disposition to heal, but discharged the same sanious fluid.

This was the condition of the patient in July last, when I first saw him, by the request of his attending physicians, with reference to a second amputation. On the one hand, the local symptoms seemed to forbid the hope of restoration of the limb, raising the suspicion that a malignant disease was disorganizing the femur and its contiguous tissues, but to what extent could not be determined; while on the other hand, the recruited and recruiting condition of the general system, seemed to contradict the local indications, and urge a further trust and reliance in the general restorative power. As it seemed apparent that amputation,

anywhere below the articulation, might subject the patient to a third operation, and believing the urgency of the symptoms did not warrant so perilous an operation, it was resolved that time should define more satisfactorily the extent and character of the disease, or the constitution more forcibly insist upon its necessity.

As the boy was of a highly strumous diathesis, he was ordered such alteratives and tonics as his state and habit seemed to indicate, and future indications to be carefully watched.

The general health continued to improve, and the local disease to advance, till the commencement of October last, when his family and physicians, perceiving his health was beginning to fail, and the disease more rapidly advancing, and concluding that there was no longer safety in delay, I was again requested to see the patient.

Oct. 11th.—Found the enlargement exceedingly increased, the limb nearly three times its healthy circumference, and extending to the pelvis, of a milky whiteness, of almost incompressible hardness, and of acute sensibility. The same sinuses were discharging, and there was an inflammatory appearance on the anterior aspect of the limb, which proved to be, as was anticipated, the result of a new sinus, making its way from the femur, nearly as high as the minor trochanter. Two important considerations urged immediate amputation—a fear that the disease would soon extend beyond the limits of the femur, and attack the structure of the acetabulum; and, second, the advantages that might be derived by availing ourselves of the recruited powers of the constitution, which were beginning to be wasted by the recent and more rapid progress of the disease. The boy at this time was about 10 years of age.

With the advice and assistance of Drs. Bacon and Jones, to whom I am indebted for valuable aid, on this and several other occasions, the operation was performed as follows:—

The patient was placed at a convenient height, and in a convenient position, on the back. He was fully narcotized by chloroform. The main artery was compressed over the pelvis, and after the process of Beclard (modified by Liston), by a double-edged knife, the thigh was transfixed, by entering it above the eminence of the large trochanter, carried over the anterior surface of the neck of the bone and out just above the tuberosity of the ischium, thus forming the anterior and somewhat internal flap. As the periosteum and other tissues, immediately in contact with the trochanters, were apparently healthy upon raising the flap, it was resolved to form the posterior flap, with its base somewhat lower than the first, and saw the bone through the minor trochanter, and in case the whole structure of the bone at this point was found free from disease, leave the articulation undisturbed. But the internal structure of the bone was found to be altogether disorganized, leaving a very thin shell, and quite filled with a bloody, purulent matter.

The large number of vessels necessarily divided at this point, were controlled as divided, by the hands of assistants, until they could be ligatured, when the bone was disarticulated as originally contemplated. As I was deprived of the advantage of the shaft of the femur, I anti-

cipated some inconvenience in the disarticulation; but the division of the transverse ligament of the socket, after the partial division of the capsule, gave very easy access to the inter-articular ligament, and the whole was completed without embarrassment or delay. There was not more blood lost, than I have usually lost in amputation at the continuity of the thigh.

When about to form the posterior flap, it was observed that the great enlargement of the limb, the indurated and consolidated condition of the tissues, to near the base of the first incision, would constitute a barrier to the introduction and passage of the knife, around the femur, so as to embrace all the remaining tissues, and give the flaps the dimensions desired. The knife was, therefore, introduced in nearly a perpendicular direction, on the external side of the bone, and carried out posteriorly, splitting the posterior flap in the middle; then in like manner on the inside of the bone, making three flaps, the two last of nearly equal size, an external lateral flap, a posterior and an anterior. Although there is probably no precedent for this, it appears to me there were decided advantages resulting from the division of the posterior flap. It furnished a very pending and accessible channel for the exit of the ligatures and secretions. The greater flexibility of the flaps, favored a more perfect coaptation to each other, and to the cavity of the acetabulum; leaving less space to be filled by granulations, and consequently was more favorable to union by the first intention; and, again, it is accomplished with great facility. A more perfect adaptation of parts, or a more symmetrical stump, it is not easy to conceive. In the speedy union, slight suppuration and constitutional disturbance that succeeded, were realized more than was promised by the mechanical appearances.

As the patient resides some sixty miles from me, I have not seen him since the operation, but am indebted to Drs. Bacon and Jones, and the father of the patient, for the history of the case subsequently, as well as previous, to the operation. A mild degree of febrile excitement, for three or four days succeeding the operation, was the only constitutional consequence that was manifested, and this was controlled by an occasional anodyne and a saline cathartic.

On the eighth day, the time of the first dressing, the wound was seven-eighths healed by the first intention. The suppuration was very trifling, not sufficient, as it seems, to retard the restoration of the constitutional powers. After the fourth day, the constitution seemed hardly to have recognized the local injury.

Nov. 3d, Miles S. Scribner, the father, writes as follows—"The tenth day after the operation, my boy got up, dressed himself, and went into the kitchen, unaided by any one, and has not been confined to his bed a day since; has been to school two half days, and is at church while I am writing. His bodily health is perfectly good, and to all appearances his leg is healing perfectly sound, and is apparently mostly healed."

Nov. 5th, Dr. Jones writes—"The boy is doing well. Has been going to school for several days. The wound mostly healed."

The ligatures came away between the 15th and 25th days. The boy went to school on the 14th day after the operation. Has continued

perfectly well and at school through the winter, and without any indications of a recurrence of the disease, and is more robust than formerly. Dr. Bacon, by letters, has also given me the particulars of the progress of the patient.

Although the early and active exertions of the patient, in the present instance, show a remarkably speedy recovery from a severe operation, I would not recommend the example. I should fear the patient was not beyond the danger of secondary hemorrhage, which was not probably considered by the friends of the boy.

Pathological Appearances.—The internal structure of the cylindrical portion of the bone remaining, had been disorganized, and the canal filled quite to the head of the femur, with a bloody purulent matter. The external surface of the bone, the periosteum, synovial membrane, and all the structures of the cotyloid cavity, were perfectly free from disease. But the application of the point of a scalpel, to the head of the bone, easily penetrated it, the cancelli being wholly disorganized, leaving but the thin, flexible, cartilaginous covering, constituting the parietes of the cavity, which was filled with a lard-like substance, of the color and consistence of the iodine ointment. Four or five inches of the lower extremity of the bone were altogether wanting; the bone and all the soft tissues had been transformed into a homogeneous mass, resembling a carcinomatous gland, furnishing a well-defined specimen of the osteo-sarcoma of Boyer. I say of Boyer, for a great variety of morbid appearances have been denominated osteo-sarcoma by different pathologists, while the affection, of which this term is most significant, has received other appellations.

Pathological appearances indicated that organic change had its commencement in the medullary structure of the bone, and was continued from within outwards, till the last lamina of the compact structure being removed, the morbid action, modified by different tissues, was productive of the massive morbid structure, already alluded to, filling the space originally occupied by the bone and other tissues.

The strong resemblance of the disease to carcinoma, notwithstanding the healthy condition of the articulation and upper portion of the external surface of the femur, gave me great apprehensions of the recurrence of the disease. But now that seven months have elapsed, constitutional and local appearances seem to guarantee to the contrary, which is favorable to the opinions of those pathologists who contend that the disease is of local origin, and that the constitution only becomes involved by the long continuance of the disease. Yet I presume it would be admitted, that a *strumous* diathesis constitutes a predisposition to this affection.

It has been comparatively but a short time since the practicability of amputation at the hip-joint was a subject of animated discussion among the surgeons of Europe. Some of the most prominent, of the last and present century, condemned the operation; among whom were Pott, Callison and Richerand. But the mutilations, incident to military campaigns, and some instances of organic disease, separating all, or nearly all the tissues at the articulation, finally demonstrated its practicability,

and encouraged surgeons, under certain rare and extraordinary exigencies, to imitate the example. But the rare success of the operation left its expediency an unsettled question, for many years after it was first practised. As late as 1824, Dr. Mott, of New York, performed the operation, the fifth time it was ever done successfully, and the first time it was ever done in America. It would be gratifying to know how many times the operation has been done since in this country, and the results, by way of contrasting with those of the earlier operations; for I have an impression they have been far more fortunate, and that the operation in this country has oftener succeeded than in Europe. The cases of Prof. May of Washington, and Dr. Van Buren of New York, are all that have come to my knowledge that I now recollect.

Old Town, Me., May 17, 1852. J. C. Bradbury.

SCIATICA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—I forward for publication the following case, which was successfully treated by me.

Mrs. Lawrence, aged about 54, and residing at No. 267 Henry street, corner of Gouverneur street, New York, had been afflicted for over five years with sciatica in the right hip, the excruciating pain of which was so great as to produce a rigidity of the joints of the knees and contractions of the tendons, threatening a confirmed case of anchylosis, in consequence of her drawing up her feet and flexing the knee-joints in order to obtain relief from pain. Her nervous system had become so irritable that the physicians who attended her had treated her for neuralgia instead of sciatica. My first visit to her was on the 5th Sept., 1848. She is a thin, tall woman, light hair and complexion, naturally of a cheerful disposition, but owing to her long suffering was in a state of great despondency. She had also suffered for over twenty years with leucorrhœa, which had emaciated her and so debilitated her constitution that she was approaching a state of rapid decline. She had a slight cough, and expectorated a matter tinged with blood. Her bowels were variable, but generally constipated. She urinated freely, but only small quantities at a time. Her pulse was full, but weak. I commenced my treatment by giving her—R. Carb. sodæ, ʒij.; potass. nitras., ʒj.; pulv. Doveri, ʒss.; liquor potassæ, ʒj.; spts. ammon. aromat., ʒss.; aqua, ʒvj. Dose, two tablespoonfuls every six hours. Rub the hip and knees freely every two or three hours with the following liniment. R. Ext. hyoscyamus, ʒss.; ext. stramonium, ʒss.; tr. opii, ʒj.; ol. cajeput, ʒj.; ol. origanum, ʒj.; lin. sapo cum camph., ʒvj.; aqua ammonia, ʒss. M. And in order to regulate the bowels, which were in a torpid state, I administered the following—R. Mass hydr., gr. xv.; pulv. rhei, ʒij.; sapo Hispan., q. s. Ft. pil. no. xij. Dose, two pills night and morning. This treatment was followed up for a week, but without producing the effect I desired. The pain was somewhat relieved, and her bowels were brought into regular action. I now com-

menced blistering the hip with R. Acetum cantharidis, and giving the following powders—R. Pul. colchici, gr. vj.; pulv. zinzibar, gr. vj.; pulv. Doveri, gr. vj.; pulv. ipecac., gr. ss.; bi-carb. potassæ, gr. vj.; pul. gum guiac., gr. vj. M. in pulv. no. j. This powder was given night and morning in half a tumbler of water. The blister was kept open by dressing it with R. Ung. resinosum flav. and an occasional slight application of the acetum cantharidis. This treatment was followed up, with the happiest results. The pain gradually ceased on the right hip and shifted itself to the left, when the same treatment was resorted to with equal success. In the mean time, in order to reduce the contraction of the ligatures of the legs and the stiffness of the knee-joints, the parts were freely rubbed with the liniment before prescribed, with the addition of neat's-foot oil and a poultice of althæa communis. The knees were then enveloped in oil-silk in order to retain the heat and moisture. Gentle flexion and tension were also given to the limbs from time to time, till they became perfectly supple and straight. With the aid of crutches she could now move from her bed, which she had not been able to do for over five years, unless when lifted out. The liver being a little affected, I gave her—R. Ext. taraxici, ʒij.; ext. graminis, ʒ ij.; bi-carb. sodæ, ʒ ss.; infus. gent. comp., ʒ viij. M. Dose, a tablespoonful three times a-day, in addition to the pills previously ordered. Under this treatment, followed up for some six weeks, she so far recovered that I deemed it advisable to attend to the leucorrhœa, which I had abstained from till now. For this I prescribed—R. White French nettle flowers, ʒ j.; ext. rhatan., ʒ j.; aqua bull., Oj. Infus. Dose, a wineglassful four times a-day. R. Cort. quercus alba, ʒ ij.; aqua bull., Oj. Infus. Add acet. plumbi, ℈ j.; alum., ℈ ij. M. Inject the vagina five or six times a-day with a glass syringe. The anti-consumption syrup, as published in your Journal, was also given to check the cough, &c. Under this treatment, accompanied with a generous diet, she rapidly recovered. She was under my treatment about four months, when I considered her cured. She has not had any relapse since, and is at this moment a fine healthy woman.

I am yours respectfully, J. X. Chabert, M.D.

431½ *Grand st., New York, May*, 1852.

DR RODGERS, THE CATECHISER OF MRS. WILLARD, ANSWERED.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—In No. 14 of the current volume of your Journal, May 5th, 1852, Dr. M. M. Rodgers, of Rochester, has published an article, headed—"*Catechism for Mrs. Willard.*" He propounds certain questions, and says, "if they can be satisfactorily answered, Mrs. Willard's hypothesis may become a scientific fact, and not before." Although only a student, I think I can not only answer every one of the Rochester doctor's queries in a satisfactory manner to the medical profession, but in a manner so entirely satisfactory to the doctor himself, that he will never venture to question the Trojan lady again. By reading her works be

will find, that knowledge, and *the want of it*, are often better displayed by asking questions, than by answering them, and the catechiser himself will afford an apt illustration of this general proposition.

His first question is—"*Where is the motive power of the circulation in those classes of animals which have no lungs, as the fishes, molusca, crustacea, insects, radiata, vermes?*" &c. In framing this question so as to stand as an objection to the Willardian discovery "that the chief motive power of the circulation is derived from the respiratory or pulmonary organs," the catechiser has fallen into the mistake (which any second-course student in the Louisiana University or the Troy Institute can or ought to be able to correct) of supposing that "fishes, molusca, crustacea, insects, radiata, vermes, &c.," have no pulmonary or respiratory organs, because they do not happen to be called lungs. All animals, and vegetables too, have respiratory organs. These organs in the higher animals (the vertebrated terrestrial) go by the name of lungs. In the fishes, molusca and crustacea, they are called gills or branchiæ; in insects, *trachiæ*; and in the radiata, vermes, &c., they have appropriate names assigned them. In plants they are usually called leaves. As all animals and vegetables have respiratory organs, and as all have a circulation of some kind, Mrs. Willard's doctrine locating the chief motive power of the circulating fluids in the respiratory organs, locates it in organs always present and always existing in every form of animal and vegetable life. Whereas those who suppose that the chief motive power of the circulation is derived from the heart, attribute it to an organ entirely wanting in insects, radiata and vermes, and never met with at all in the vegetable kingdom. Yet vegetables, together with a most numerous class of the lower order of animals, have a circulation and no heart to give motion—but all have respiratory organs.

Question 2d. "*Where is the motive power of the fœtus in utero, when the lungs have no particular part in the circulation?*" Truly, where is it? Can Dr. Rodgers tell? If the doctor supposes that all doubts and mysteries of the motive power of the blood in the fœtus, have been cleared up anterior to the Willardian discovery, he is as much mistaken as children fresh from the nursery in thinking they know exactly what the moon is made of. The Willardian discovery explains the fœtal circulation very satisfactorily. Allow me to repeat Dr. Cartwright's explanation, only, *as yet, orally communicated*. "The placenta is the respiratory apparatus of the fœtus in utero. It does for the fœtus what the lungs after birth do, viz., oxygenates the blood and gives it motion." Mrs. Willard had not got thus far, but Dr. Cartwright has improved on her discovery.

The third and last question of Dr. Rodgers is in these words—"*Where is the motive power in the fœtus or embryo, before the lungs are formed at all, and the heart is the only centre?*" This question presupposes that there is a nice little heart perfectly formed in the embryo to give motion to the blood to form the other organs. This is a very large mistake about the little heart. It does not happen to be formed as soon as some of the other organs—the brain and spine, for instance. A considerable portion of the embryotic life is passed before the heart assumes

the form of a hollow organ. When first seen, it is a mere membrane on each side of the mesian line, one half lying on one side of the mesian plane, and the other upon the other side. Truly, where is the motive power of the circulation in the embryo, before the heart is formed? If the catechiser will examine an egg, he will find that a provision is always made for the aëration of the ovum within. It consists of a membrane covering the abdomen and coming in contact with the air through the pores in the shell. This membrane is the respiratory apparatus of the ovum. On its surface, the umbilical vessels of the chick are seen to ramify long before any heart can be perceived. Thus the chief motive power of the circulation in the ovum is located in and derived from a respiratory organ, in the shape of a membrane covering the albumen.

D. J. McCann, A.B.

New Orleans, May 17th, 1852.

OPERATION FOR STRANGULATED HERNIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—I send you the following case, hoping that you will find it of sufficient interest to appear in the pages of the Journal.

I first saw the patient, May 10th, at 5 o'clock, P.M. On examination I found a strangulated direct inguinal hernia of the right side. The hernial protrusion was, by measurement, eighteen inches in circumference. The history of the case, up to the time when I took charge of it, is as follows:—The patient is a man about 38 years of age, tall and very muscular. Has always been a laboring man, and in the habit of lifting heavy weights, but has never, until to-day, had any hernia, or in fact sickness of any kind. This morning (May 10th) he eat heartily of clams, and about 12 o'clock was taken with a violent attack of vomiting. While in the act of vomiting, he "felt something give way" in his abdomen, and this large mass was immediately protruded. He sent at once for his family physician, who, after trying all the usual methods for reduction, without success, advised that he should send for me to operate. When I saw the case, at 5, P.M., I made a short and ineffectual attempt to reduce by taxis. I now called in, for additional counsel and assistance, my father, Dr. Andrew Mackie, and Dr. Wm. A. Gordon. On consultation with them, it was decided to operate at once. The patient was put under the complete anæsthetic influence of chloroform by Dr. A. Mackie, and after another unsuccessful attempt to reduce by taxis, I proceeded to perform the operation, assisted by Dr. Gordon. It was performed after the usual method. The stricture was divided in a line parallel with the linea alba, and the contents of the sac, consisting of large and small intestine and omentum, returned into the abdomen. The wound was closed with sutures and dressed with a compress wet with cold water, secured by a T bandage. The patient was then placed in bed, lying on his back, with the head and shoulders slightly elevated, and directed to maintain this position strictly. To take nothing through the night but cold water, and that very spar-

ingly. When I left at 9 o'clock, he was as comfortable as we could expect. The operation was rendered very embarrassing by the want of sufficient light, as it had to be done by the light of a single lamp, and the tissues covering the sac were so much distended, that it was almost impossible to distinguish one from another.

May 11th, 5, A.M.—Somewhat feverish; tongue moderately coated; pulse 110, hard and full; some tenderness of abdomen. Bled him ʒ xxiv. from the arm. Ordered the abdomen to be kept covered with cloths wet with cold water.

10 o'clock, A.M.—Saw him again, with Drs. A. Mackie and Gordon in consultation. Pulse now 98, much softer than at previous visit. Less tenderness of abdomen. Bowels had not been opened since the operation. R. Sulph. magnes., ʒ ss. May take rice-water in small quantities through the day.

5 o'clock, P.M.—Saw him again, with Drs. A. M. and G. Condition same as at previous visit. Salts had not operated. R. Ol. ricini, fʒ ss. Repeat every three hours till it operates.

12th, 8½ o'clock, A.M.—Saw him with Drs. M. and G. Had taken one dose of oil, that operated freely three times, at 7 and 12, P.M., and 4, A.M. Stools dark and very offensive; pulse 84; tongue slightly coated; abdomen free from pain. Dressed the wound for the first time. Seems to be healing by first intention. Some puffiness, but not much soreness. May drink through the day, moderately, of well-cooked corn meal gruel.

13th, 8½ o'clock, A.M.—Dr. Gordon in consultation. Seems to be getting along nicely. Pulse 68; tongue cleaning; abdomen free from pain. Has felt some disposition to evacuate his bowels, but has had no passage. Wound looks well. R. Ol. ricini, fʒ ss. Diet—gruel.

From this time the case steadily progressed. I removed the sutures on the 14th, and on the 20th, the wound being entirely healed, I fitted a truss, and the patient got up from his bed, and went about his usual business.

The principal points of interest in this case, are, the large size of the hernia, its sudden formation, the absence of any peritonitis after the operation, and the rapid recovery. In my opinion, the free bleeding on the morning after the operation exerted a powerful *prophylactic* influence in preventing peritonitis. I think the success of this operation is a strong argument in favor of operating early. JOHN HOWELL MACKIE, M.D.

New Bedford, May 24th, 1852.

BURLEIGH SMART, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

DIED, in Kennebunk, Me., on the 6th of April, Burleigh Smart, M.D., aged 57.

"The beloved physician" is no more! In the full vigor of health and the free exercise of all his powers; when his professional skill and reputation seemed daily acquiring new lustre, and prosperity and

happiness were strewing his path with flowers, he was called away—away from all who so fondly loved and trusted him. The staff on which they had leaned with so much confidence was suddenly broken, and many a heart is filled with mourning; for Dr. S. was the faithful *friend*, as well as the skilful physician. Who, that has ever seen his otherwise thoughtful countenance, lighted up with the smile of encouragement in the sick room, can forget the sunshine of that look?

Of his professional merits, I could have wished an abler pen than mine to write. A common observer would have noticed the readiness with which he detected the nature of diseases. He seldom failed in his *diagnosis*, and remedies were promptly applied to the *cause* of the trouble, while the more urgent *symptoms* were not unheeded. Though this knowledge, at times, seemed almost intuitive, yet the doctor was always a *student*. He truly loved his profession, and neglected no means of ennobling it.

In diseases of the throat and lungs, he was particularly successful. His ready ear detected the first approach of dread consumption—and the smile of returning health has often rewarded him for his "word in season."

In surgery his rank was even higher than in medicine. His strong nerves and steady hand, eminently fitted him to perform the most delicate and painful operations; and many of his cases, if reported, would furnish much that was interesting and valuable in that department. Indeed, he never seemed so well qualified to bless his race as at the time of his departure. He truly "died in the harness"—for he had just returned from visiting a patient, at half past 8 in the evening—and while sitting by the fire, engaged in conversation, he suddenly fell from his chair, breathed a few times, and all was over. Ah! who shall draw aside the veil which shrouds that family circle.

His funeral was attended by crowds of young and old, rich and poor. Tears fell from "eyes unused to weep." One poor old man, bowed with the weight of more than 80 years, walked four miles, through the heavy snow, to prefer his simple request—"Can I look on the dead?" Such tributes show how strong a hold the departed had on the hearts of those who best knew him.

He was himself a man of strong feeling, and independent action; happily they were engaged on the right side—on the side of the sick and the suffering.

ONE WHO KNEW HIM WELL.

May 25, 1852.

THE RIGHTS OF DISCOVERERS—ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The subject of ether has been so often before your readers, that I am almost afraid to mention its name, for fear of paralyzing their nerves of sensation; but seriously, "that which has disarmed the knife of its terrors," by the magic influence of anæsthesia, may well claim a few thoughts on its merits, when those merits seem to be at issue. Yet per-

sonally I cannot regard them as at all at issue, after the most learned and scientific body in the world, the Academy of Arts and Sciences of France, have examined the whole subject and the evidence sustaining the claims of the *thirteen* different claimants in various parts of the world, including those of Dr. Jackson, and Messrs. Wells and Morton, in our own country, and have awarded the discovery to Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston; and after the French government has approved this award by conferring upon Dr. Jackson the Cross of the Legion of Honor, and the Swedish government, at the suggestion of Berzelius, has in like manner approved it by conferring upon him the Gold Medal of Merit.

I copy from the "Comptes Rendus" of the Academy, the exact language of the award, because it has been wrongly translated, in a book, wherein the word *indications* (to point out) has been rendered "suggestions."

Award of the Academy.—"En conséquence, elle propose à l'Académie de *décerner* un prix de 2,500 francs à M. Jackson, pour ses observations et ses expériences sur les effets anesthesiques produits par l'inhalation de l'éther: un autre de 2,500 francs pareillement à M. Morton, pour avoir introduit cette méthode dans la pratique chirurgicale, d'après les *indications* de M. Jackson."

Thus awarding the *discovery* distinctly to Dr. Jackson, with 2,500 francs in money. The addition of the Cross of the Legion of Honor, as, in the words of the award, "a recompense for a discovery that has been a benefit to all mankind," shows that the merits of the discoverer and his servant are held immensurably distinct. Subsequent knowledge, if made known to the Academy before the award, would in my judgment have influenced the Academy to have made *no award whatever* to any other than Dr. Jackson.

The following opinions, from high authority, *indicate* the convictions of scientific men in France.

An editorial in the Journal des Connaissances Medico-Chirurgicales, of November, 1848, one of the principal medical journals of France, prepared under the direction of M. Velpeau, chief surgeon of the Hotel Dieu, and professor of surgery in the University of France, speaks as follows:

"The question of priority of discovery is, then, no longer doubtful for the scientific men of France and England; and the name of the scientific man to whom humanity owes so great a benefit, will be forever that of Dr. Charles T. Jackson."

Louis Figuier, *docteur en science*, in volume I., in his "Exposition et Histoire des principales Découvertes, Scientifiques Modernes, Paris, 1851," says, "we are perfectly convinced that Dr. Morton did not know the first word about ether, when in the month of September, 1846, Dr. Jackson communicated to him all his ideas respecting it." This, I must remark, is his conclusion after analyzing the published evidence of Dr. Jackson, and Messrs. Wells and Morton.

There are some few persons who bring in question, in a spirit of captiousness, what constitutes a scientific discovery. In order to put at rest

forever their theory, that stealing a man's ideas constitutes a discovery, I copy, from a large number of cases in point, two decisions of unquestionable authority. P. M. Roget, formerly Secretary of the Royal Society of Great Britain, in the "Library of Useful Knowledge," vol. 2nd, article on Electricity, writes as follows:

"It should be noticed, however, that about a month before Franklin had made those successful trials (viz. his experiments with the kite) some philosophers, in particular Dalibard and De Lord, had obtained similar results in France, by following the plan recommended by Franklin. The glory of the *discovery* is universally given to Franklin, as it was from *his suggestion* that the methods of attaining it *were originally derived*."

Sir David Brewster, in his annual address to the British Association, also says, "the new planet was discovered by the calculations of Adams and Laverrier, long ere a ray of its light had entered the human eye."

An article published in the Boston Daily Advertiser, understood to have been written by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, alludes to the discovery, as that of Laverrier in the inductive science of astronomy; and physiology most assuredly belongs also to the inductive sciences, as is universally admitted.

May, 1852. H. A. H.

SPIRITUAL WRITINGS AND THE "JERKS."

[The two last numbers of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery contain some interesting remarks, by one of the editors, on this subject. Dr. Taylor's article in this Journal is favorably referred to and quoted from by the writer, and he then proceeds to compare the singular epidemic, if it may be so called, with a previous one, of equally strange character, in this country.]

A more remarkable example of this perverted condition of the nervous system was, perhaps, never afforded than by the "*Jerks*," which accompanied the intense religious excitement that prevailed in Kentucky and Tennessee about the beginning of the present century; and as that vagary seems to us to throw much light upon the mania under consideration, we will quote from a late writer some passages descriptive of the strange phenomenon. We refer to the Rev. Dr. Davidson. In his interesting and valuable "History of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky," he has collected with much labor many curious and instructive details on this subject, which are not less interesting to the physician than the theologian.

The first occurrence of the "jerks" was at a sacramental meeting in East Tennessee, "when several hundreds of both sexes were seized with strange and involuntary contortions." Dr. Davidson remarks:—

"From the universal testimony of those who have described these spasms, they appear to have been wholly involuntary. Thus they have been represented by McNemar in the passage just cited. This remark is applicable also to all other bodily exercises. What demonstrates sat-

isfactorily their involuntray nature is, not only that, as above stated, the twitches prevailed in spite of resistance, and even the more for attempts to suppress them; but that wicked men would be seized with them while sedulously guarding against an attack, and cursing every jerk when seized. Travellers on their journey, and laborers at their daily work, were also liable to them.

"Instances have been given of men concealing whips on their persons, with the intention of using them upon the subjects or advocates of these contortions, who have themselves, to their great surprise and horror, been suddenly seized in a similar manner, and their whips have been violently jerked out of their hands to a distance. A young man, the son of an elder, who was a tanner, feigned sickness one Sabbath morning, to avoid accompanying the family to a camp-meeting. He was left alone in bed, with none others in the house but a few black children. He lay some time, triumphing in the success of his stratagem, but afraid to rise too soon, lest some one might be accidentally lingering and detect him. As he lay quiet with his head covered, his thoughts were naturally directed to the camp-meeting, and fancy painted the assembled multitude, the public worship, and individuals falling into the usual spasmodic convulsions. All at once he found himself violently jerked out of bed, and dashed round the room and against the walls, in a manner altogether beyond his control. Recollecting that praying was said to be a good sedative on such occasions, he resorted to the experiment, and to his great satisfaction found it successful. He returned to bed quite relieved, but only to be again affected in the same way, and to be again quieted by the act of praying. He then dressed himself, and, to occupy his mind, went to the tanyard, and drawing a skin from the vat, prepared to unhair it. He rolled up his sleeves, and, grasping the knife, was about to commence the operation, when, instantaneously, the knife was flirted out of his hand, and he himself jerked backward over logs and against the fences, as before. Gaining relief by resorting to the former remedy, he ventured to resume his occupation, and again he was interrupted. But, finding his talisman losing its efficacy, he began now to be really alarmed, and, quitting the yard, he returned to his chamber, and betook himself to prayer in good earnest. In this condition, weeping and crying to God for mercy, he was found by the family on their return."

We have said that there appears to us to be a striking analogy between the condition of the nervous system which leads to these writings, and that which existed in the persons who were affected with the "jerks;" and some further facts which we have now to add will, we think, render this still more apparent. Thus, while this singular affection was not confined to any class or sex, but men and women, black and white, were its subjects, still it was observed that women were much more apt to fall into it than men; and it was also remarked that those who had once been seized were particularly liable to a second attack, and jerking or swooning readily became a habit. "Women," it is stated, "had their nerves so weakened by the frequency of these attacks, as to fall while walking to or from the meeting house, engaged in narrating past exercises without any uncommon emotion, and drop from their horses on the road."

Many instances of this acquired habit of the nervous system are recorded by the writers of that period. Thus, Dr. Cleland, an estimable and pious clergyman, relates that riding one day with a lady, the wife of a presbyterian elder, who had been some time previously affected with the jerks, it occurred to him to try whether they might not be renewed simply by starting a particular train of ideas in her mind. The conversation just before had been of an indifferent character; he changed it abruptly to devout and solemn subjects, and adds, that "before two minutes had elapsed, her body began to be violently agitated, pitching upward and forward, from the saddle half way to the horse's neck, six or eight times in a minute."

There were those who struggled long and earnestly against the disposition to fall, but were forced to yield at last. One fell, after bitterly opposing what was esteemed a "divine work," and another, exclaiming that it was "an unfortunate sight and a great mortification." "One dropped, as if shot, just after expressing his fears that the work was not right." A father threatened his swooning daughters that he would beat them if they ever came to such a place again, and fell with the words in his mouth. A man fell at Lexington, "who had told an acquaintance if he fell he might put his foot on his neck and keep him down."

Not only were there these involuntary motions, the result of sympathy, but in many of the subjects there was also the unconsciousness and insensibility presented by the mesmeric state. Persons, to their great surprise, found themselves unable to move when they wished. One young lady is mentioned who was not aware of any change in her condition, and was amazed to find the people flocking around her; but then making an effort to move, she found herself powerless. Some, while in this state, were both conscious and capable of conversing; others were speechless. The most energetic stimulants, as in artificial somnambulism, made no impression upon the sentient nerves. A phial of harts-horn was applied by a clergyman to the nose of a stout young man, who was lying flat on his back, and by accident some got into his nostrils; "but he took not the slightest notice of it."

On one occasion Lorenzo Dow, while preaching in the court-house at Knoxville, Tenn., the Governor of the State being present, saw one hundred and fifty persons exercised by the jerks. At another meeting, where the excitement had risen to a wilder pitch, three thousand persons were reported to have fallen. The influence by which these strange manifestations were induced, as every one must be prepared to learn, was held by the multitude to be supernatural. It was esteemed, as we have said, a divine work, which it was hazardous and sinful to oppose. The subjects were often in an ecstatic state, and had visions and revelations. They saw dazzling light such as they could not behold. "Two women," says a historian of the times, "have fallen into trances, and one has passed a golden bridge to heaven; the other has been in heaven," &c. &c.

No doubt there were sensible and discreet men, probably physicians, who believed that these people were in communication with the spiritual world. No one believes so now; and yet the "spiritual writers" may

be defied to bring out anything more marvellous than the phenomena afforded by the "jerks." These things—mesmerism, the jerks, spiritual writing, all in them that is not fraud and deception—belong, then, in our judgment, to the same category, and have their origin in a peculiar, perverted state of the brain. It is a state easily induced in some individuals, while others are capable of resisting it. The subjects of mesmerism are found to be the apt spiritual writers, as the believers in clairvoyance are those who yield the readiest credence to its being the work of spirits.

We do not deem it worth while to write against the thing. It *will* have its day. The populace will be carried away with it; some will lose their senses, and commit crimes, or get into mad-houses; and then after a time

"——————" all this derision
Will seem a dream, and fruitless vision."

As an apology for the length to which we have extended our remarks upon this subject, we have said, that the miserable superstition has ended, in not a few instances, in deplorable insanity. In this city we already hear of persons who are fully persuaded that they hold daily converse with the spirits of their departed friends, and one young man is understood to have been impelled to suicide by these spiritual writers. We may not be able to arrest the delusion, but it ought at least to be exposed.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JUNE 2, 1852.

Massachusetts Medical Society.—This year the annual meeting of our State Society will be held at Pittsfield, on Wednesday, June 23d. A hope is entertained that the profession will give a punctual attendance, as the season is propitious for an excursion into the interior, and the facilities by railroad are unrivalled. No doubt very ample preparations will be made to meet the wants of the medical strangers who may be present. If holding the meetings in different sections of the Commonwealth answers the object contemplated by the friends of the measure, it will be extremely gratifying to the members. We regret to learn that a misunderstanding has prevailed to some extent among the members respecting the time and place of the annual meeting this year. Many thought it was to take place in Boston last Wednesday, and several distant members came from the country on that day to attend it. We know not that any one is to blame for this mistake, though an earlier official notice would doubtless have prevented it. The Society seems destined to be unfortunate in its notifications respecting the annual meetings.

Permeability of Metals to Mercury.—A republication of the learned Prof. Horsford's paper on this subject, from the American Journal of Science, will give those an opportunity of obtaining it who are not

subscribers to that able work. Chemistry is a great science—but the laborers are few, and the science is so unsatisfactorily taught in the schools of medicine, that whatever emanates from authority in this department of American medical education should be gladly seized upon. There is no intimate connection between the subject of this article and practical medicine, yet medical men generally take a deep interest in whatever is developed in regard to mercury.

Louisiana State Medical Society.—Edward H. Barton, M.D., late president of the above-named Society, and whose name is identified with whatever is worth having or knowing in the domain he has successfully cultivated for many years, delivered an address on retiring from the presidential chair, which his brethren did themselves the honor to publish. Although embraced within the compass of ten pages, it grasps a variety of topics, each of which is discussed, as Dr. Barton handles all subjects, with a thoroughness that is refreshing. He urges upon the consideration of the society various matters of the highest interest to humanity. No one at the South better understands the value of sanitary measures, on which the increase of population, a development of the resources of the country, and commercial enterprise, exclusively depend, and Dr. Barton has neglected no opportunity of urging upon the profession and the citizens of New Orleans the necessity of obviating the sources of disease which are perfectly at their command. He has rung it in their ears, for a long time, that New Orleans might be a place of health. The far-off people of other States, and, in fact, of other countries, still call it the grave of strangers. There is something evidently contradictory in the statements of those who assert New Orleans to be the abode of health, and the universally diffused opinion that human life is held there by a feeble tenure, owing to the fatal prevalence, from time to time, of fevers that are not readily controlled. If the city authorities have not listened to the warning voice of its physicians, many of whom have a reputation that would command municipal respect, and influence local legislation, even in New England, the commercial interests of the inhabitants will certainly suffer by the neglect. The world is becoming wiser, since the laws of health have become a distinct branch of study; and those who refuse to better the condition of a community exposed to the development of a pestilence, when they are advised to do so by competent counsellors, have nobody to blame but themselves when their trade is embarrassed, property deteriorated in value, and those who go down to the sea in ships are afraid to look in at their ports.

Hospital for Drunkards.—When the Legislature, or private charity, shall provide a receptacle for that degraded portion of society, drunkards, it will be a triumph of benevolence, and the institution will doubtless be filled. For years past, the subject has been agitated; but beyond suggestions, and strong hopes, nothing has been accomplished. It is now a settled opinion that intemperance is a fixed disease, for which there is no remedy, and humanity and economy suggest that asylums should be reared for housing and giving employment to such as cannot be provided for by their friends. As the whole ground has been repeatedly gone over, and enough written in favor of the project, if it is ever to be undertaken, by this or any other State, a further discussion would be useless. Physicians trace many an ill to that great fountain of disease, gross

violations of the laws of health through habitual tippling, and the poor-houses are filled with living evidence of the physical and mental debility, to say nothing of poverty and crime, that is referable to this growing vice of the land. We commiserate the Chinese opium smoker, who is supposed to be ignorant of the effects of his besetting sin; but we deserve no compassion. Position, education, social relations or family obligations, have no restraining power, and the inebriate drops himself down into a premature grave. We should like to have something done as well as said, in regard to such a public receptacle, on account of the moral effects it might have.

Nashville Medical Institution.—There was a hesitancy, some few years since, in regard to the probable success of a medical department of the University of Nashville, if it were organized. Finding that schools were springing up, gourd-like, all over the Union, a sense of modesty and even surprise restrained the original friends of the plan for a while. They could neither discover the utility or divine the destiny of so many mushroom schools. However, as nobody commended them for their moderation, but rather laughed at their antiquated notions in regard to the propriety of weakening the moral and scientific force of the nation, by diffusing it over too much surface, the Nashville gentlemen buckled on their armor and marshalled their own students, instead of sending them from Dan to Beersheba to swell the ranks in other States. Ther esult is, they have made an excellent school, educate professionally their own promising sons, and at this moment they are exerting an influence highly creditable to the learned faculty of the institution. Facilities for pursuing anatomical investigations are well arranged. This is one of the things never to be lost sight of or overlooked. If there have been reports adverse to the interests of the Nashville school, touching that point, they were groundless, and the invention of an enemy. The Legislature of Tennessee has created a State Hospital—appropriating the old lunatic asylum, a large and acceptable building, for immediate occupancy. There are eight professors, of acknowledged worth and enterprise, who are giving character and strength to the Nashville College, which will record its name on the pages of medical history, in a manner honorable to their memories in after times.

American Surgical Apparatus.—English surgeons have always been ready to assist in the introduction among them of surgical instruments of value invented by our ingenious countrymen. Palmer's leg was extolled by them as superior to British ingenuity. Dr. Jarvis's adjuster, for reducing luxations, was also extensively used in England. Dr. Sanborn's extension splint, manufactured at Lowell, Mass., has received the approbation of all the eminent surgical authorities in London. It must be gratifying to the inventor, who has achieved an important desideratum in that beautiful instrument. We apprehend that the merits of this simple, but truly efficient machine, to prevent the shortening of the lower limbs by fractures, is not so well appreciated at home as in Europe. It should be in every hospital, and the property of all who are liable to be consulted in cases of fracture.

Chloroform for Animals.—A stallion was subdued in forty seconds, at Washington, preparatory to a severe operation. He lay perfectly quiet,

and unconscious of the loss to which he had been subjected. This suggests the propriety of giving chloroform to all of our domestic animals, when they are doomed to the painful maimings which we impose upon them in our domestic economy.

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.—The committee appointed to draft resolutions to be presented to the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, to express the feelings of the members caused by the death of their associate, Mr. Daniel Noyes, submit the following:—

1st. That in the death of Mr. Noyes we know that we have lost one of the earliest members of the college, of which he was for several years President, and one who was among the most active and efficient; and those of us who were associated with him will always remember how efficiently and unobtrusively, in all his daily work in the world, he was continually doing good to all with whom he was associated and called upon to work in the various classes of society; that we mourn his loss and sympathize with his family and those friends who were more nearly connected with him than we were.

2d. That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the college and published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, and a copy of the same forwarded to his family.

THOS. FARRINGTON,
HENRY W. LINCOLN.

Suffolk District Medical Society—Meeting for Medical Improvement, Saturday evening, May 29th. (Reported for the Journal by GEO. STEVENS JONES, M.D.)—The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Homans, at 8 o'clock. Not a large number of the members were in attendance. Dr. Durkee presented a "living pathological specimen," being a case of lupus. He had applied comp. tinct. of iodine and the ungt. iodide sulphur to the tubercles, without any good resulting from their application; but by touching the parts with the acid nitrate of mercury once in two or three days, there seemed to be every chance of a successful and rapid cure. Dr. D. said that there were considered to be three varieties, or stages of this disease, and the case which he presented might be classed among the second varieties. The pus from the ulcers had a granulated appearance to the naked eye, but under the microscope it appeared to be made up of epithelial cells, which were peculiarly characteristic of this affection. He had a case of this disease two years since, which had then been of eighteen years duration; it was successfully treated by caustic potash.

Dr. Ayer read a very interesting paper relative to a case of inverted uterus, that occurred in his practice; but as the paper will be published in the Journal by his permission, notes were not taken.

Dr. Bethune mentioned the peculiar effect of atrophine in a case where it had been applied to the eye of a gentleman who had opacity of the cornea and adherent lens. He had directed his assistant to make only one application, but there were two made, which produced very great irritation, distressing the patient much, and finally caused him to be delirious for two or three days. This case of Dr. Bethune caused quite a discussion among the members, as to the use of narcotics; some of the gentlemen had known death to be produced by almost infinitesmal doses,

while others had known of persons who could with impunity take very large quantities. At 9½ the society adjourned.

The Circulation in the Fœtus. Mr. Editor,—It is not my purpose to enter into the discussion now going on as to the motive powers which circulate the blood. But I would propound one question for the observer of Nature—whether he has ever witnessed so monstrous a confusion, nay, contradiction in designs, as would be presented by a heart circulating the blood, and through a vital process, in the fœtus, and the substitution of the lungs, and a chemical process, for the same function in the same individual at a subsequent period of life, and without any essential change of organization? Does he consider, also, the consequences to which this chemical hypothesis must lead, throughout the fabric of medicine, practically as well as theoretically, and does he carry his analysis to these considerations to learn how far they may conflict with the chemical doctrine of the circulation? Finally, I may say that that doctrine belongs to Liebig.*

"A Looker-on in Venice."

* See his "Animal Chemistry;" a work which found its way to the *toilet* in this country by its republication in the newspapers.

Medical Miscellany.—A petition is to be addressed to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for another medical college to be located in Philadelphia. It is to teach the doctrine that all systems are wrong but theirs.—A young man named Bassett, residing in Bethel (Danbury), took by mistake a quantity of corrosive sublimate. He survived the effects of it for three days, when death released him from his sufferings.—The average mortality of London is 164 per day. Another statistical commentator asserts that a birth occurs in London every seven minutes, and a death every nine. Population, about 2,400,000.—One hundred and twenty-one students attended lectures at the new school of medicine, Nashville, Tenn., the late term, and thirty-three were graduated.—Dr. Dix, the well-known oculist of this city, will open early in June, a house for the accommodation of persons with diseased eyes. Further particulars may be learned from the advertising sheet.—A depot has been established in Boston for the exclusive sale of dental apparatus, instruments, moulds and artificial teeth, which must be very acceptable to operative dentists.—Apprehension is expressed at New Orleans, that the plague will reach that city from the West Indies, where it is thought to be prevailing.

Married,—Dr. George Nichols, of Northfield, Vt., to Miss E. M. Blake.—Thos. F. Rochester, M.D., of New York, to Miss M. M. De Lancey.—At New Haven, Conn, Charles Foot, M.D., to Miss A. J. Jenkins.—At Montevideo, Dr. John Ward, U. S. N., to Miss M. G. Dalton.

Died,—At Roxbury, Dr. Peter Gilman Robbins, 73.—At Pawlet, Vt., Dr. Oliver L. Harman, 82.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, May 29, 63.—Males, 27—females, 36. Accidental, 1—disease of bowels, 2—disease of brain, 2—congestion of brain, 1—consumption, 14—convulsions, 2—cancer, 1—croup, 1—dropsy, 1—drowned, 2—erysipelas, 2—typhus fever, 1—typhoid, 1—scarlet fever, 4—gangrene, 1—disease of heart, 3—intemperance, 1—infantile, 8—inflammation of lungs, 4—marasmus, 1—measles, 1—old age, 4—palsy, 1—puerperal, 1—rheumatism, 1—thrush, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 22—between 5 and 20 years, 8—between 20 and 40 years, 15—between 40 and 60 years, 9—over 60 years, 9. Americans, 28; foreigners and children of foreigners, 35. The above includes 8 deaths at the City institutions.

American Medical Association—Washington Monument.—Dr. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, offered the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted, at the late meeting:

Whereas, it is the duty of patriotism to do homage to those who have been benefactors to their country; and whereas the medical profession in the United States, heretofore not wanting in patriotic feeling or action, desire to co-operate with the other public bodies and institutions of the country in rendering their profound reverence to the memory of him who was "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen:"

Be it therefore resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to solicit subscriptions from members of the American Medical Association, for the purpose of procuring a suitable stone with an appropriate inscription, for insertion, in the name of this association, into the national monument to the Memory of WASHINGTON, now in progress of erection at Washington city.—*Virginia Stethoscope and Med. Gaz.*

Injury to the Eye by Melted Lead. By J. H. CLARK, M.D., Newark, N. J.—Was called March 24, 1847, to P. C., a plumber, aged 40, into whose eyes a quantity of melted lead had been directly thrown. A portion of the metal had penetrated between the lids in a fused state, and moulded itself to the ball of one of the eyes, covering nearly the entire surface; the lids also were much burned. A half hour had elapsed from the time of the accident, before I saw him. I immediately removed the lead, which was moulded not only upon the eye, but upon the brow and lids. I took out a piece which presented a precise mould of the cornea, and expected of course to find considerable injury, but to my surprise, owing to the profuse lachrymal secretion, and the rapid cooling of the metal, merely a severely conjunctival inflammation ensued. Employed promptly antiphlogistic measures to relieve the inflammation.

25th. Patient much better; sight uninjured; lids much swollen; conjunctival vessels highly enlarged; no inflammation of any other tunic; no constitutional fever. By the means of occasional cupping, low diet, rest and darkness, Mr. C. was again at his shop upon the 31st, sufficiently recovered to pursue his ordinary avocation.

When I met with this case I supposed it to be without parallel, but I found that Mr. Lawrence, at page 177 of *Hay's Lawrence*, thus relates the following as the only case that ever fell under his observation: "I had a patient at St. Bartholomew's in whom melted lead had passed into the eye. A thin concave portion of the metal was removed, which obviously owed its figure to having been in contact, while liquid, with the eyeball. The organ sustained no material injury." My friend, Dr. David Greene, of New York, has since related to me a case in his own practice, where molten iron was borne with almost equal impunity.—*N. J. Med. Reporter.*

Arabian and Cyprian Aloes.—Dr. X. Landerer states that much of the aloes employed in the East is produced in Arabia, where various species of aloë grow in considerable abundance. The drug is rudely manufactured by the Arabs from the expressed juice, and is then carried to the bazaars of Alexandria, Cairo, Smyrna, &c.

The aloes produced in the island of Cyprus, though excellent in quality, is stated not to be prepared in sufficient quantity to admit of its being exported.—*London Pharm. Journ.*